goats and rats which did not reveal any adverse effects attributable to BT. Cotton. Feeding experiments conducted with BT Cotton seed meal on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes indicated that the BT Cotton seed meal is nutritionally equivalent to and as wholesome and safe as, the non-BT Cotton seed meal. As per the opinion of the National Institute of Nutrition a Research Institute under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the refined cotton seed oil consumed by humans is unlikely to carry an transgenic material derived from BT cotton.

Stoppage of supply of medicines by chemists

3509. SHRI J.CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIN. R.DASARI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased **to** state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the approved chemists had stopped supplying medicines to CGHS dispensaries recently putting CGHS beneficiaries into difficulties in getting medicines; and

(b) if so, the reasons for stopping supply and the steps taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Authorised Local Chemists of CGHS Delhi had gone on strike during 1.4.2002 to 12.4.2002. The strike was restricted to Delhi only. The chemists were protesting against withholding of 10% of their bills submitted to the CGHS. This amount is being withheld in view of the matter relating to charging of sales tax by the chemists. These matters are now under reference to the C&AG.

During the strike period, to avoid any difficulties to the CGHS beneficiaries, they were allowed to purchase medicines from the open market and get reimbursement from the respective offices in the case of serving employees and from the CGHS in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

Rates in hospitals approved by CGHS

3510. SHRIN. R. DASARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the hospitals recognized/approved by